Clearance to Bombay III Water Supply Project

5435. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay III water supply project, Mid Vaitarna Project, requires clesarance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests before the project is posed to the World Bank for assistnace:

(b) whether the request of the Maharashtra Government for the clearance has been accepted; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for non approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification issued by the Ministry of Environment and Ftrests in January, 1994 (as amended in May, 1994), environmental impact assessment and environmental management plants have been made mandatory for 29 categories of projects (including River Valley Schemes) with an investment of Rs. 50 crores and above. The Bombay Water Supply Project, namely, the Mid Vaitarna Project involving the construction of a dam across Vaitarna river, is estimated to cost Rs. 137 crores and requires environmental clearance prior to its implementation.

(b) and (c) The proposal was referred by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay in February, 1993 to the Ministry of Environment and Forests without incorporating the requisite environmental management plan. The project proponents were informed abuot the requirements. Decision bn the project would be possible only on receipt of the environmental management plan.

Increase in the Foret Cover in the country

5436. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRL SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been perceptible increase in the forest cover in the country, as a result of afforestation and wasteland development drives, during the last three years.

(b) if so, the forest cover available as on January 1, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995, indicating the percentage increase year to year; and

(c) whether there is any difference in the computation of forest area as per (i) satellite imagery and (ii) revenue records?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There has been a net increase of 22 Sq. Km. of forest cover in the country in the year 1989-91 as compared to the year 1987-89 as reported in the State of Forest Report 1993 published by the Forest Survey bf India which is mainly due to intensive afforestation efforts.

(a) The Forest Survey of India conducts survey of the forest cover once in two years and the survey pertains to a period of two years. As per the latest State of Forest Report 1993, actual forest cover is 6,40,107 Sq. Km. which pertains to the period 1989-91.

(c) As per the latest. State of Forest Report 1993, the recorded forest area is 7,70.078 Sq. Kms. as against actual forest cover of 6.40,107 Sq. Kms.

Environment clearance for a Chemical Zone in Ankleshwar

5437. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Miinster of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Environmental clearance has been taken by the